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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 00443 110823Z

21
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 021067
P 101430Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5249

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 0443

STADIS //

EXDIS

FOR COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OEXC HU
SUBJECT: CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH HUNGARY

REF BUDAPEST 0442

1. IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THOSE HUNGARIANS WHO RUN THIS COUNTRY GENUINELY WANT AN EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. GOH WILL HAGGLE; BUT, SINCE LEADERS WANT TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM IN IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS, THERE IS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT WE CAN GET WHAT U.S. NEEDS AT REASONABLE PRICE.

2. ON OTHER HAND HUNGARIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE (KKI) IS MOST INERT, MINDLESS, INEPT BUREAUCRACY WHICH I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED ANYWHERE; AND IT IS SAD FACT THAT IT IS WITH DR. ROSTABE KKI'S AGED, KINDLY, INEFFECTUAL HEAD, THAT ONE MUST NEGOTIATE A CULTURAL AGREEMENT. ROSTA AND HIS SATRAPS REIGN OVER THEIR CULTURAL DOMAIN IN COMFORT; THEY DO NOT RULE, MANAPG, DIRECT OR EVEN GUIF IT. THEY ENJOY THE GOOD AND LEISURELY LIFE; AND IN FULL REALIZATION THAT THEY POSSESS NO DOMESTIC POWER BASE AND NO AUTHORITY -- AND HENCE CANNOT HOPE TO INFLUENCE EVENTS EVEN AT THE MARGINS -- THEY DO JUST AS LITTLE WORK AS POSSIBLE. THEY HAVE DUTIFULLY LOADED INTO LATEST HUNGARIAN COUNTERDRAFT (BUDAPEST 0401) EVERY CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCEIVABLE REQUEST FROM EVERY HUNGARIAN CULTURAL,

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EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC ENTITY WITH AN AXE TO GRIND.
THE RESULT, OF COURSE, IS UNACCEPTABLE MISH-MASH.

3. WE HAVE BEEN MOVING ALONG STEADILY WITH THE HUNGARIANS IN PAST MONTHS. THEY HAVE BEEN RESPONDING IN A COOPERATIVE FASHION AND BEHAVING VERY CORRECTLY. BUT IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THAT ROSTA AND HIS NIT-WITTED COLLEAGUES WHO LOVE TO TRAVEL AND CAVORT AND AFFIX THEIR SIGNATURES TO NON-SUBSTANTIAL CULTURAL AGREEMENTS (E.G. WITH PORTUGAL AND PAKISTAN) ARE TAKING THE UNITED STATES LIGHTLY. THEREFORE, WHILE MINDFUL OF AND DETERMINED TO ADHERE STRICTLY TO THE POLICY GUIDELINES YOU HAVE GIVEN ME, I SINCERELY REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT APPROVE TACTICS OUTLINED BUDAPEST 0442.

4. SIMPLY PUT, I NEED SOME ROOM FOR MANEUVER.
MCAULIFFE

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